

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 /075 W
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FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7319
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1729

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, BQG
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO SOVIETS ON JULY 15 AUTOBAHN DELAYS

REF: BONN 13042

1. CHAIRMAN (BRITISH) POLAD GLADSTONE SAW MINISTER KHOTULEV
AT SOVIET EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN ON JULY 18 AND DELIVERED
TEXT CITED PARAGRAPH 6 OF REFTEL.
2. FOLLOWING IS GLADSTONE'S REPORT THROUGH BRITISH
CHANNELS, TEXT OF WHICH HAS BEEN PASSED TO US. BEGIN TEXT:
2. KHOTULEV SAID HE WOULD INFORM HIS AMBASSADOR OF THE STATEMENT
BUT WOULD LIKE TO ASK WHAT MEASURES HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY THE
GDR AUTHORITIES, WHETHER THEY WERE NEW, AND IN WHAT WAY THEY HAD
HINDERED TRANSIT TRAFFIC. WHEN GLADSTONE DESCRIBED THE DELAYS
AND QUEUES OF TRAFFIC WHICH HAD BUILT UP IN THE EARLY HOURS OF
15 JULY, KHOTULEV SAID THERE APPEARED TO BE NO SPECIFIC CASE
BEING BROUGHT. HE HAD CONSULTED THE GDR AUTHORITIES, WHO HAD ASSURED
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HIM THAT THEY HAD TAKEN NO ADDITIONAL CONTROL MEASURES ON THAT
DAY. IT THEREFORE SEEMED TO HIM THAT THE ALLIES WERE PROTESTING
AGAINST THE FACT THAT THE GDR EXERCISED CONTROLS AT ALL ON THE
AUTOBAHN: HOWEVER, THESE WERE CLEARLY ALLOWED FOR IN THE TTA AND
TRANSPORT AGREEMENT. FURTHER, THESE CONTROLS HAD BEEN CARRIED
OUT BY THE GDR AUTHORITIES ON 15 JULY AS AT OTHER TIMES IN STRICT
ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT AGREEMENTS. HE CLAIMED THAT THE GDR

AUTHORITIES HAD SPARED NO EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THROUGH TRAFFIC SHOULD BE PROCESSED IN THE SIMPLEST AND BEST WAY. IN WESTERN EUROPE, TRAFFIC JAMS WERE REGARDED AS NORMAL AT WEEKENDS, BUT WHEN THE SAME THING HAPPENED AT GDR CHECKPOINTS THERE WAS A HULLABALLOO.

3. KHOTULEV WENT ON TO SAY THAT THERE WERE TWO SIDES TO THIS COIN: THE GDR ENSURED FREE CIRCULATION AND THE FRG BENEFITTED FROM IT. HE HAD TO REPEAT THAT CRIMINAL ELEMENTS WERE STILL ABUSING THE TRANSIT REGIME AND THE WESTERN SIDE WERE DOING NOTHING TO IMPROVE MATTERS. BUT IF THE WEST DID NOT FULFIL ITS SIDE OF THE BARGAIN, THEY HAD NO RIGHT TO COMPLAIN ABOUT ABNORMAL DELAYS. HE CONCLUDED BY REPEATING THAT THE ALLIED STATEMENT PROVIDED NO SINGLE EXAMPLE TO SUBSTANTIATE THEIR COMPLAINT.

4. GLADSTONE SAID THAT HE HAD LISTENED TO WHAT KHOTULEV HAD TO SAY WITH INTEREST BUT WITHOUT BEING PERSUADED. THE ALLIES WERE NOT CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT MEASURES THE GDR DID OR DID NOT EMPLOY TO ENSURE FREE CIRCULATION OF TRAFFIC ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES: ALL THAT MATTERED WAS THAT UNDER THE QA (ANNEX 1, 1(D)) THE GDR WERE OBLIGED TO ADOPT PROCEDURES FOR TRANSIT TRAVELLERS WHICH "SHALL NOT INVOLVE DELAY". IT WAS AN INCONTESTABLE FACT THAT ON THE MORNING OF 15 JULY THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE DELAYS AND THIS WAS THE FAULT OF THE GDR. HE SAID THAT SINCE KHOTULEV HAD DENIED THAT THERE HAD BEEN ANY INTENTION TO CAUSE DELAYS, HE AT LEAST ASSUMED THAT THERE WAS NO TRUTH IN THE VARIOUS REPORTS HE HAD

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HEARD THAT THE GDR WERE TRYING TO MAKE DIFFICULTIES OVER PRESIDENT CARTER S VISIT. KHOTULEV NODDED ASSENT. END TEXT.

3. SEVERAL BERLIN PAPERS, INCLUDING DIE WELT, MORGEN POST AND TAGESSPIEGEL (ALL INDEPEDENT), CARRIED SHORT FACTUAL ITEMS ON JULY 19 QUOTING AN UNNAMED ALLIED SPOKESMAN WHO ANNOUNCED THAT THE THREE WESTERN ALLIES HAD PROTESTED TO SOVIET EMBASSY OVER THE TRAFFIC DELAYS ON JULY 14. GEORGE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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